GDP Growth rates

*86. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have taken note of views expressed by eminent international economists at the recently held meeting of World Economic Forum in New Delhi predicting stagnation of India's GDP at 5.5 to 6.0 per cent in view of its sagging industrial growth;

(b) whether such views suggest that India needs to invest, on a priority basis, in its people, their health and primary education to sustain a high growth rate; and

(c) what steps Government have been taking to check the inflation still hovering around double-digits, creating socio-political problems and whether Government realises that its GDP growth rate of 5.5 per cent still compares unfavourably with the GDP growth rates in other developing countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) In the presentation entitled India; Seizing the Moment-What next in the reform process? made by Mr. Claude Smadja Senior Adviser for Asia of the World Economic Forum there were some observations regarding India's growth. As per this presentation, Indian economy is expected to grow from 5.5 per cent during the current year to around 6 per cent in the next few years. In addition, it makes a suggestion for investment in rural infrastructure and social sectors like health, primary and technical education to sustain and provide momentum to the growth process.

(c) Over the last decade or so India's growth rate has been higher than a majority of low income economies. There are, however, some countries like China and Indonesia which have had higher growth during this period. Between September, 1994 and November, 1994 the inflation rate has ranged between 8.3 per cen and 9.7 per cent after reaching a peak of 12 per cent in late April 1994. A number of supply-demand side measure have been taken to check inflation.

Capacity Utilisation in Telecom Sector

*87. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA :Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the capacity utilisation in the telecom sector ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of installed and utilised capacity ; and

(d) the steps contemplated to increase the capacity utilisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Year wise status of telephone capacity, working lines and percentage of capacity utilisation in the country for the year 91-92, 92-93 and 93-94 is as under :—

Item	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Installed capacity	6783936	7968310	9795174
Working Lines	5809929	6796748	8025586
Utilisation	85.6	85.3	81.9